

Public Comment in Regard to the AZ Canal Multiuse Path from Chaparral Road to the Indian Bend Wash Path

The following comments were received at the May 1, 2013 Public Meeting. All references to names and addresses have been removed. This document represents only the comments that were received. A separate document has been created to address Frequently Asked Questions.

Comment 1

A beautiful facility! Hopefully the majority of stakeholders/residents will approve and continue to keep Scottsdale moving to a completely bike friendly/livable community.

Comment 2

There is a bike path east of Cabrillo Sq so why do we need another path? People have been riding on the canal path just as it is for years. Both of these paths can be reached from the path that goes from Hayden through the golf course. This seems an unnecessary expense for the city.

Comment 3

It seems to me a bridge over Chaparral from the canal coming from the south would be better than crossing the street & more use than a bridge over Jackrabbit-have you considered that-would be less dangerous for pedestrians and not hinder traffic flow.

Comment 4

I think this will be a wonderful addition to our neighborhood. I wish the entire path could be on the East BANK. Thanks you for your work on this.

Comment 5

Better idea: take path from either Jackrabbit or McDonald over to the Indian Bend Wash bike path. This is much cheaper and no new negative impact.

Comment 6

Lighting is a horrible idea-anywhere the path is by a house.

Comment 7

Will the power poles be replaced? Some of the existing power poles are deteriorating & leaning.

Comment 8

If environmental dept. involved how can they accept more concrete. Heat _____ dogs cannot walk on in summer. Bad for runners-no lighting or very min-should be solar-no signs-Berma

shade no-not enough people will use these patties of concrete to warrant price to install. Put more money into trees-stabilized granite get rid of power poles.

Comment 9

Can we please increase the amount of garbage cans or dog poop cans? There seems to be an increase in puppy fecal matter along the path. The landscaping along the canal seems like the best use of funds. I'm very excited for the bridges.

Comment 10

GREAT PROJECT! JUST DO IT!

Comment 11

Very, very happy with the plans. It's an asset for the community that has been underused; it will be a real plan. The design is very good-will look forward to its completion.

Comment 12

1-No lighting should be allowed, too close to houses. 2-The additional landscaping will not help drainage and will further block views. 3-How about keeping the path on the west side north of McDonald which is all industrial property.

Comment 13

Thanks-Artistic plans look great. Long overdue.

Comment 14

Loud woman already has her problems. She bought home with some grade-and doesn't want screen. Existing problem-don't try to fix.

Comment 15

I LOVE this project! I am most interested in the landscaping as a buffer and erosion control. We live at XXXX and would like all the trees you can put back there. I also love the art that incorporates shade. Beautiful and functional! Thanks you!

Comment 16

Benches seem more appropriate for sitting than boulders. Hope art design doesn't block natural beauty. Looking forward to multiuse trail along canal. Much better than biking or walking on roads. Safety & function are high priorities for me. In my opinion, a multiuse path is wonderful & adds to the attraction of Scottsdale.

Comment 17

There should be a better way to spend the money. This project should not be done.

Comment 18

In the area of gathering spots-the boulders sound like uninviting places to sit. Some of the concepts are appealing but I love to see natural materials in art in AZ. These use of "mesh"

doesn't sound organic. The low light helps w/ our concerns of light being obtrusive to private homes.

Comment 19

Please make sure the design includes trash/refuse containers AND dog/pet mess bags. Please trim the existing trees.

Comment 20

I am very opposed to this project. So much time has already been devoted to it by the city staff with virtually no input from the population it will effect. I am grateful for this opportunity to become informed. Unfortunately many of my neighbors were not notified or have migrated to their summer homes. Although the city staff presenting at this meeting could not tell us what this path is costing. As a taxpayer I feel that this money could be used for more important priorities. And by the way the public art was intrusive and will not blend in with our neighborhoods. Thank you for permitting me to voice my opinion.

Comment 21

I like the plan and the proposed improvements. Glad to have more public art.

Comment 22

Don't get discouraged by the naysayers. Just keep charging. It's a great project. Runners that like dirt can cross over at the bridge and stay on dirt.

Comment 23

I do not live on canal bank-so I see this project as a + for Scottsdale. My question & interest is in regards to a Blue Star Memorial. I started Old Town Scottsdale Garden Club 4 yrs ago and we have funded for this Nat'l Garden Club project to be installed in Old Town. Please be in touch.

Comment 24

Where is the "second bridge" I see the bridge at the end of Jackrabbit. Art: signs (Burma Shade) unnecessary. Mesh structures-need to be lower. Will wind disturb them or blow them away? Please look at "Nature Trail"-east Hayden along Silverado golf course. Not being used anymore. Thanks you for repeating questions.

Comment 25

- 1-Overlook-will it block views of McDowell Mountains-check out height.
- 2-Parking-where will people park? Realistic-more people will come!
- 3-Don't do it-give \$ to EDU which is cutting jobs. Educate the kids.
- 4- Runners like dirt.

Comment 26

Reed kept talking about the regional connect. Just link up to the Indian Bend Wash, it's only about 1,000 feet to connect to existing prime grade paths.

Comment 27

There is a serious issue w/elevation, privacy, safety at a bare minimum with putting the path on the east side between McDonald & I. Bend.

Comment 28

Why is COS spending over \$2M on a project we don't need when our city is woefully in debt? We don't need to spend this money on a path when you need to improve streets & roads & neighborhood areas? This is stupid and inconveniences many residences.

Comment 29

Skip the stupid Berma shade art-waste of money.

Comment 30

You need to move the mtgs scheduled during the summer months to something after Aug. because you are not accounting for ppl. Who leave Scottsdale for the summer.

Comment 31

Please save our dirt path for runners. Don't stick a concrete path on the canal banks.

Comment 32

I am completely against any so-called improvement of the canal bank. I am a runner and prefer a natural surface. This is being done for cyclists. They have enough bike lanes and other concrete pathways. This is a waste of city money and time. This project should be re-evaluated and removed from the city's master plan.

Comment 33

I love the project! I use the canal banks 4-6 days a week now. I like to run on dirt so I probably run on the other side, but it will be a great addition. My may concern is crossing @ chaparral and McDonald. It is an adventure every time now!

Comment 34

I love the artists design of the Jackrabbit Bridge- I feel the project will increase the value of our homes and I am thrilled about connecting to downtown.

Comment 35

Path should be moved to the west side (if needed at all) north of Jackrabbit where there are very few homes. The east side location will add pedestrian traffic behind and above residential backyards impacting our privacy. Obstacles to placing the path on the west side can be overcome with some additional effort and creativity. Your choice to drop the west side solution is just the easy way out.

Comment 36

Lighting is a bad idea. Lighting will be an invitation for people to use the path at night adjacent to an unprotected body of water.

Comment 37

In the public meeting Mr. Kempton appears to be defining the city's path system by where there is pavement. Not all paths need to be concrete. The Arizona Canal bank is currently an active, popular pathway without the "benefit" of concrete.

Comment 38

Please consider Trash bins, Dog Waste stations. If on West side, please consider path going underground across from McDonald. Thank you.

Comment 39

NO LIGHTS !!! NO ART!!! NO EAST SIDE !!!

Comment 40

Wonderful plans but what about south of Chaparral? I live in Villa Monterey west of Miller and many homes abut the canal. There are numerous problems that have to be addressed and this project would help eliminate most of them if this project were extended south of Chaparral. We need this project. XXXX has been in touch with SRP Jim Duncan, Councilman Bob Littlefield, Anna Leyva and others. XXXX is a resident of Villa Monterey whose property abuts the canal.

Comment 41

Why is the path between Camelback & Chaparral not included in this project. Recreational use of the canal does not end at Chaparral. People cross Chaparral Road bike to Camelback.

Comment 42

Comments re lighting and others- Lighting and usage during dark hours deter crime- " Why should this project be built" was asked, implying that there is already a nearby facility. This question can be likened to why do we need to build streets every ¼, ½ and 1 mile apart, since there are already nearby streets. Mobile people have the same expectations as motorists in reaching their destinations in the shortest time possible, with the added benefit of not having to contend with motorized traffic. This project provides not only a safer route to downtown or from the west to the north, but a chance for visitors and residents alike to enjoy the surroundings. This is not just a Scottsdale issue, but a regional one.

The following comments were sent to the City in regard to the AZ Canal Project during the month of May 2013. All references to names and addresses have been removed. This document represents only the comments that were received. A separate document has been created to addresses Frequently Asked Questions.

Comment 43

The following are my comments for the Canal Improvements, Chaparral to Indian Bend.

I own a condo on the West Side of the Canal at Villa Antigua. My condo unit is on the Second floor with a view of the Canal and Camelback Mountain.

Best Case Scenario:

1. Bury the lines on the West side of the canal in order to continue concrete path on the West Side. It is less dense and the traffic will not affect as many residents.
2. Provide erosion control on both East and West slopes with small to medium shrubs. The shrubs will not block resident's view of Camelback Mountain yet they will mitigate the view from the path into resident's yards.

Landscape: For! Adding plantings is a winner on all sides.

1. Please look for xeriscaping which tolerates freeze. Climate change is bringing colder air in the winter.
2. Please do not add trees which will block the resident's view of Camelback Mountain. Lower shrubs would work better for all concerned. The shrubs will not block resident's view of Camelback Mountain yet they will mitigate the view from the path into resident's yards.

Artwork: For! with reservations. The Shade structures and Bridges are very cool but the word signs are awful. I use the canal path because it is a refuge from the noise and concrete.

1. Large signs with all cap words shouting at me are very displeasing. Any artwork on the ground should be reflective of nature. For example, the steel leaf shapes at Chaparral Park are pleasing and do not disrupt the experience of nature. The boulders are a great idea - don't ruin it with five foot tall word banners. People know there is a street ahead!
2. The water snake shade structure at the Overlook is very cool. The concept enhances the experience of the water. However high winds along the canal create a need for stronger structures - the mesh looks flimsy and I wonder how much shade it would actually provide. I would recommend less regularity in the bridge snake. It would be better to have it echo the fluidity of the shade snake mesh at the Overlook.

JackRabbit Bridge: Against unless it connects traffic to the Indian Bend Wash Path.

1. The amount of money spent on the Bridge could go for burying the lines. There is not enough foot traffic to justify the cost.
2. The shade structure is cool however high winds move along the canal so any structure needs to withstand the wind force.

Lighting: Against. The addition of lighting will increase use at night in a normally quiet neighborhood. The glare from the lights will disturb residents.

Concrete Path: Against on the East Side of the Canal. A concrete surface brings more noise and more traffic.

Increased Traffic: Against on the East Side of the Canal. The condo units along the path are very close to the path. A concrete surface brings more noise and more traffic.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns. I am generally for improvements which improve our quality of life. Thanks for all your hard work!

Comment 44

Thank you for one of the best thought out and run meetings of this kind that I have attended.

I do not think improvement to the pathway is essential to the people who are now using it. Nor do I think the City of Scottsdale requires more paths for bikers. That being said, the planned improvements will probably be approved. Therefore, I'll submit my thoughts on the project. I know the path well as my husband and I walk daily from Jackrabbit to Lincoln and we are very happy with the path as it is now.

1) No night lighting along the path. It would be a disservice to homeowners, most whom have back yards along the path. Also, the way society is these days the City & SRP are asking for lawsuits if they encourage night traffic on the banks of the canal. Scottsdale City Planners are very fussy regarding lighting. The soft, low lights that would be required would not provide safety for those who might use the path at night. And who might those people be?

2) Seating along the path. It's not clear why seating is needed. For aesthetic purposes perhaps? Better to put these dollars into landscaping--more trees that provide shade and color.

3) Regarding the answer to one question regarding parking: a) that improving the path would not draw more people to use the path b) nor would an improved path draw people who would need to park their cars to take advantage of the path. We now have people parking on our cul de sacs along Miller to use the path, but might it become a problem in the future? Who knows?

4) If more people in favor of the project would attend these meetings both sides could be addressed instead of just the 'nays.' Probably not going to happen as it's always the unhappy or angry that want to be heard. It was rather one-sided discussion.

5) At this time I'm not in favor of this project. Times are hard today for our cities, counties, states, people are being laid off, and funds for the education of our children are drying up. Isn't there a better place for our City to use the aid of Federal Funding or grants. Let's put our taxes where they will help the most people, not just those of us who are fortunate enough to walk, jog or bike along the canal banks.

Thank you for providing the residents of Scottsdale the opportunity to weigh in on this project. I hope much consideration is given to our comments.

Comment 45

Thank you for coming to the canal Saturday morning to discuss the multiuse path with

residents. I appreciate it.

Comment 46

I was unable to make the meeting re; the multiuse path improvements from Chaparral Rd to Indian Bend. Is there a web site I can go to look at the improvements to be done. I love the paths in Scottsdale. BTW, there is graffiti that someone sprayed on the small building next to the canal at the Silverado golf club.

Comment 47

I was in attendance at last night's meeting at Pueblo with regard to the above-mentioned project.

At the beginning of the project, you told the packed room of attendees that you obtained a large grant for the project as part of the completion of a bigger project - later in the presentation, you stated that the City of Scottsdale will be responsible for at least half **\$2M or MORE** of the monies provided to the project. Then still, when pressed for more info about the budget, you stated that you have no idea how much this will actually cost!

Further, I am requesting that you reschedule the June 20th meeting with the Transportation Committee for this project until late August when our Scottsdale residents return from vacation and can have an opportunity to participate in the decision making process. The City selfishly and conveniently forgets to notify residents of meetings and frequently schedules major events like Transportation hearings when it is least convenient for its residents. Since there is no "rush" on this project and you told attendees that you want their complete input before moving forward, (as stated in your presentation last night, a copy of which was video recorded), then there should be no reason why you cannot reschedule the Transportation Committee meeting until late August providing opportunity for resident participation.

Comment 48

Last night's presentation was certainly well done, and attended by enough significantly involved project parties to answer questions, and you are all to be congratulated on that.

My comments on the pathway are as follows:

- 1) Being an Arizona native, I really don't want to see one more inch of concrete in our state, no matter what the use!
- 2) Since most walkers and runners prefer dirt to cement (the knees and hips don't like concrete), it appears to me that the REAL purpose of the pathway is for bikers. I object to this because:
 - a. We already have bikeways on most of our adjacent streets
 - b. We already have a cement pathway along the Indian Bend wash

- 3) Lighting and seating along the way is just wrong.....wrong.....wrong. God forbid that the young crowd that now invades Old Town at night would prefer to bring their “private” parties to the canal. If in fact the pathway in your vision would be used by the same people who use it now....then there is NO need for seating, art nor lighting. And providing these amenities would certainly NOT attract any of the folks in the adjacent neighborhoods to “visit” along the path.
- 4) The bridge across Jackrabbit seems solely for the purpose of the pathway crossing over the canal....folks who live on the west side would NOT be using it as their pathway to the Chaparral Park, unless it were carrying cars as well as pedestrians...and God forbid that the plan includes cars.
- 5) I feel for the homeowners along the canal who presently suffer from the now designated status of “flood plain” because of the runoff situation, and can certainly agree with them that NOTHING should be planned that would exacerbate this existing problem.
- 6) While I realize there is Federal Grant money available (given the current status of our Federal Government...I can’t even imagine where this money is coming from, but that’s another story), I think this pathway is a foolish way to spend Scottsdale taxpayers’ money. There are plenty of other areas in south Scottsdale that need attention...the empty car lots along McDowell Rd for starters.
- 7) I love south Scottsdale, and have lived here since leaving Tucson in the 70’s, but I can’t see that this project will “enhance” the beauty of the city, provide any better access to downtown (except for the few bikers who would choose to use this path instead of many others), nor engage any of the homeowners living along this stretch favorably to the plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions on this matter, and for the opportunity to attend the meeting to hear about the plan. Since I provided my email address, I trust that you will “remind” us of the June meeting so that I may attend that as well.

Comment 49

I was unable to attend last night's meeting. My neighbor did and filled me in.

The plan looks horrible! It is designed to bring much lighting, noise, unwanted traffic and a bridge directly to my open backyard. We have lived in our home nearly 23 years and are okay with the occasional jogger or biker near our spacious backyard. This new plan is going to be an entirely different animal! It will bring much disturbance to a peaceful home including greatly increasing trespassing and crime risks to our home. Privacy and safety will be greatly compromised. Can't the City find a way to less disruptive way to entertain the tourists and young, intoxicated partiers who inhabit downtown Scottsdale?

Please send us a list of names and contact information of all decision-makers regarding this proposed project, including planners, architects and City officials who will vote on this.

Comment 50

I live in Sunrise Villas Association, a property that will be directly affected by the proposed changes. Since I will be unable to attend the meeting, I take this opportunity to raise some concerns and share some suspicions regarding the process

1) Notification of residents:

Not all residents of Sunrise Villas Association, Inc., encircled by Miller/Jackrabbit/Vista/N78th St./Sage Dr., received a notification regarding this meeting. The mail-out appears to have been haphazard, giving the impression that the City wished to ensure that fewer residents would attend the meeting. We did not receive notification, neither did a number of others. This notification was drawn to my attention by a neighbor.

2) Date of Meeting:

Appears to have been timed in such a way that many winter residents have already departed for their summer homes. Hence, once again raising the unfortunate suspicion that the process was designed to have as few residents as possible in attendance. I would like to believe that is not the case, however, the coincidence cannot be ignored.

3) Preliminary Plans for Canal Multiuse Path:

While I do not want to be accused of the NIMBY syndrome, the description does raise a number of concerns for what it does not state. It is understandable that only the positive is stressed; however none of the potential negative impacts are being noted. I draw your attention to the distinct potential for the following and would hope that those issues would be addressed in a realistic and forthright manner:

- a) increased *crime* and *policing* (we have had a number of incidences in our Property over the last couple of years) as more users move between the two shores.
- b) increased *lighting*, required for safety. It is not specified as to what type of lighting is envisaged. However, if lighting is to be at a greater height than walkway lights, it has the potential for increasing such light shining into units which face Miller. For Sunrise Villas, many of the bedrooms face directly on to Miller and could thus be negatively affected;
- c) increased *bike and foot and dog traffic* throughout our non-gated community with the inevitable dirt and debris that comes with more foot traffic;
- d) d) possible compromising of the *oleander hedge running from the Miller/Jackrabbit* corner down to the transformers on the east side of the canal at the Vista/Miller junction. Our Association is responsible for its maintenance. What assurance/guarantees will be offered to ensure that this hedge will not be destroyed during the process of public 'landscaping'? Or will the proposed 'landscaping' include the removal of said hedge or perhaps long-term servicing (pruning and watering) by the City?
- e) e) *parking*. There is no parking along Miller/Jackrabbit. There is currently a slightly graded/elevated access to the canal at the Miller/Jackrabbit curve behind the Property's

maintenance shed and one at the transformers at the Miller/Vista junction Or is it expected that any additional parking resulting from potential increased use of the canal pathway will be accommodated on Vista, Plaza cul de sac, Bonnie Rose cul de sac, or possibly N 78th St. cul de sac?

- f) *paving* for foot/bike paths: Will the entire bank be paved or just a wide foot/bike path?
- g) *pedestrian bridges*: How many and at what intervals are these envisaged between Chaparral and the curve of Miller/Jackrabbit? If between Vista and the Miller/Jackrabbit curve, will access from the street be by means of steps and cutting away of the oleander hedge?

Comment 51

I attended the Arizona Canal Multiuse Path (Chaparral Road and the Indian Bend Path) - Public Meeting last night.

To say that I was frustrated and discouraged is an understatement. Clearly, the City of Scottsdale staff has already made their final decisions about this project even though nearly every one of the many neighbors who spoke at the meeting disapproved of the plan.

I do not understand why the city wants to force this project down the throats of this neighborhood when there are real alternatives to accomplish your stated goal of providing a new biking/walking avenue to downtown. You have chosen a proposal which maximizes the impact to the largest number of people to install a bike path when there is an existing bike path less than a 1/4 mile away. And, to see the excitement in the eyes of the city planners at the idea of LIGHTING and areas to sit on boulders literally right on top of neighbors fences . . . I can't put words to the lack of consideration for those of us who live along the proposed path. Especially, where there is an industrial area on the other side of the canal.

Comment 52

I'm kinda nervous about the canal plan. I'm at Lincoln and the canal. We'd all like a crossover there to get to Trader Joes, but I just don't want added noise. My husband runs his Apple Inc office from a room that faces the canal. The birds noise can be insane but the people I think need a sign that says hey, remember this is people's homes and bedrooms, we may not be up at 5 and if we are we may be on a call w our boss or customer. I hear some strange stories. Lol

Comment 53

I would like to bring these two issues to your attention. Both provide the same outcome: greater access to the canal bank behind the residences situated across from (east of) Cattletrack as well as a constant invasion of privacy and compromised safety to those neighborhoods.

I lodged a complaint with the City of Scottsdale a few weeks ago concerning unauthorized vehicle use as a pass through road along the canal bank, but until a second neighbor complained, nothing was done about it. This canal access from the end of 78th Street to McDonald presents a serious danger to pedestrians and bicyclists accessing the canal bank for exercise when it is utilized by motor vehicles other than those permitted by SRP or COS.

The City of Scottsdale has now proposed placing a multi-use path on that same stretch of canal bank. The City has the option of placing it on the opposite side of the canal bank, where it will not interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the neighborhoods, but they have proposed otherwise. I have spoken to the neighbors and businesses on the west side of the canal, where this path could be placed, and they NEVER received notification of this project. Has the City already decided on the final location for the path?

We have had to deal with years of ongoing facility noise and intermittent construction at the AAWC site across the canal because of the City's poor decision to allow that treatment plant to be built across from a residential neighborhood. Introducing a paved path into this area east of the canal will further exacerbate an already difficult situation: neighbors will need to contend with additional lighting, constant noise, increased traffic (foot and otherwise), and more frequent gawking into our backyards and windows of our homes further violating our privacy. By making this residential area more accessible to the public, you are inviting trouble and potential criminal activity into our quiet neighborhoods.

I urge you to contact SRP and block access to the canal bank so that unauthorized vehicles cannot freely access the road. Further I am asking you to reconsider the City's proposed plan to put the multi-use path on the east side of the canal, so that the neighborhoods do not suffer certain negative consequences. Please protect the best interests of our residents by addressing both issues.

Comment 54

From what I have seen so far, this project is ill considered and poorly noticed. What information has been circulated to a very few citizens is sketchy and in many instances self-contradictory. It makes me wonder for whose benefit this project is being undertaken. Certainly not the residents who will have to live with it. I hope you'll encourage staff to reconsider their poor choices.

Comment 55

At last night's meeting held at Pueblo specific to the above-mentioned project, I asked you what the City plans to do for the hundreds of residents who will be severely impacted by the installation of this project on the east side of the canal, next to their homes. You failed to provide me with a valid, concrete response, stating that I should address my concerns with you personally. The neighborhoods are represented as a united front - it is unfair to the hundreds of residents who will be impacted by your decision, to address their needs on an individual basis. Decisions made by you should benefit all residents as a whole and your budget for this project should reflect same - total accommodation for the residents.

Therefore, as one of many who have objected to the placement of this path behind their home, I am asking you, what do you plan to do for all of the residents? Is it in your budget to:

***Install intrusive security fencing all along the canal to prevent criminal activity and passage into backyards by path users?**

***Beef up security by COS police department to account for increased activity in the area?**

***Shield us from the additional noise outside our homes which will certainly occur due to additional foot traffic and your anticipated installation of "gathering locations" next to residential homes?**

***Clean graffiti off of residential walls when they are tagged along the canal bank?**

***Forego any lighting of the path to ensure that it is not utilized at night?**

***Clean litter from our yards when it is thrown there by passersby utilizing the path?**

***Keep path users from violating the privacy of the neighbors by staring into their homes or stopping along the paths?**

We live in this area of Scottsdale because we want the quiet enjoyment of the natural desert surroundings. If we wanted to live in "cement NY" with its vast array of criminal activity and crowds, we would move to downtown Scottsdale. The General Plan does not account for moving "downtown" into this area of Scottsdale. Clearly, you have not accounted for the impact to the neighborhoods when you selfishly decided, without residential input, to place this path on the east side of the canal. We do not want you to install more landscaping to "shield" us from the path or those who use it - many of us have views of the desert and mountains that we would like to maintain that from our backyards. And installation of additional landscaping along with the cost of same begs the question - why have the path at all east of the canal if you have to band aid the situation from the get-go?

You have viable options for placement of this path where it will least impact the residents and the City budget, yet you are not entertaining them. You have committed more than \$2M of taxpayer funds to this project without accounting for their input. Were you oblivious to the

packed room full of angry residents last night who DID NOT WANT THIS PATH IN THEIR BACKYARDS? You could easily install this path along the west side of the canal where it impacts NO ONE - that is an industrial area. Further, there is a beautiful multi-use green belt bike path at the McDonald crossing which you could tie your proposed path to, bypassing entire neighborhoods, yet you insist upon placing it on the east side of the canal because it is what "you want". This path is intrusive, and a potential security/privacy issue for residents in the area. You could save millions of dollars by utilizing other options. I ask you, why aren't you doing that? Our City is in debt up to its eyeballs and you are wantonly and selfishly spending money on a cement path that no one in the neighborhoods wants. Why?

The residents need concrete answers from the City, not some shiny PowerPoint presentation that gleams of happy and peppy and bursting with love artwork from some unknown NY creative who clearly has befriended someone in Scottsdale to get this job. These are real issues here with real solutions that you apparently have chosen not to entertain. I suggest that you look at your options and pick one that does not severely impact the residents or the City budget.

Comment 56

I attended the May 1st public meeting on the above proposal. My property is west of the path. The following are my comments.

Our neighborhood is "dark sky" similar to adjacent Paradise Valley. Lighting on the path, no matter what level of illumination, would not be respectful of our existing neighborhood environment

Privacy is also a concern as I am convinced that usage would increase. Why would the expense of such a project be approved if this were not so? Screening with vegetation 6' high or more above the path elevation could ameliorate this problem if it was dense enough.

While a concrete path may provide some dust control but won't it also have a "heat sink" effect and increase the noise factor?

A huge visual improvement would be gained by assisting APS financially in placing their lines underground.

What is the purpose/category of the federal funds to be allocated? What other uses have been considered for these funds? What other uses have been considered for the Scottsdale share of the funds? I am familiar with governmental budgeting and know there are

restrictions/limitations. If this were not the case, I would prefer the funding be used for the Scottsdale School District.

Comment 57

I attended the May 1st public meeting. The following are my comments:

1. My family are cyclists and look forward to the day we can ride this new path.
2. We are on the West Side of Woodmere Fairway Rd and are currently following the LIBW drainage Study. There is no doubt that the Flood Map boundary is incorrect in our neighborhood. The ultimate revision won't be determined for some time, however, the placement of this new concrete path could have an impact. If the elevation of the canal bank is raised by as much as an inch, the Flood Hazard in our Neighborhood will be raised. If this happens I'm positive that there will be lawsuits against the city and increased red tape through FEMA. I would ask that the path placement be well considered with respect to this issue.
3. I agree with the wish to move the path to the west bank north of Jackrabbit. There is certainly room to split the path around the poles or move the poles. I know it's not precise but the assessors aerial shows plenty of room for buffer, path and landscaping.
4. The paved path south of Chaparral is supposedly going to be installed by the developers. Just North of Camelback is developed with a retail center. Their portion of the path is not complete (Who is enforcing the agreements.) The same goes with the section just south of Chaparral. The city needs to be imposed fines on these developers or hold up future permits until they have fulfilled their obligations.

Comment 58

> I have been out of town. I just returned and heard about the plans for the canal next to our residences from my neighbor. I also have seen the drawings of the proposed canal "improvements." I am intensely against the proposed improvements.

> The beauty, peacefulness and uniqueness of the canal will be completely destroyed. The wildlife that gathers along the canal will have no place to go (the harris and red-tailed hawks, the various owls, the water birds, the coyotes who help to keep the mice and rats at bay and away from the residences, etc.). Right now the canal is a wildlife refuge, a hidden gem in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city. This will disappear.

> The seating areas will attract undesirable vagrants and drug users, especially a night. The concrete will give off heat and the noise levels from the users on the concrete paths (particularly skaters and skateboarders) will destroy the serenity of the canal.

> The "improvements" will definitely affect and lower the values of the residential housing in the canal area. They will also obstruct the views of Camelback Mountain and the Praying Monk which are a special part of this area.

> The canal is so unique to Scottsdale as it is. The "improvements" would ruin the canal.

Comment 59

I live at Villa Antigua and my condo sits just yards from the canal bank. I just received this news about your ridiculous proposal to make a park out of the canal. What makes me MAD AS HELL IS THAT I JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS!! I ALSO DISCOVERED THAT THERE HAS BEEN TWO MEETINGS TO DATE AND NO NOTICE IN THE MAIL!! WHY???

Do not do this!!!!!!!!!! This is my peaceful back yard, and has been for 11 years now. This is also a natural part of Scottsdale where wildlife still plays.

PEOPLE LIVE HERE!!!! Do not bring parties to our front/back door.

Comment 60

After getting more information from someone that has been to 2 meetings a lot has been cleared up with my fears of complete paving on both sides with no dirt path at all. I would still like to be updated on any future meetings as I have interest in this project. Thanks for hearing me out!

Comment 61

My wife and I own a unit at the Winfield Place Condominiums and are very interested in the plans along the canal. We live in Seattle and were unable to attend the public meeting but are very interested in the project. Is there anything you could email to us that would give an overview of the plans? Thanks.

Comment 62

I understand that a number of our homeowners attended and that some even wrote regarding their concerns. Permit me to add my regarding the paved path. It seems to me that it is solely for the benefit of bikers as surely planners are aware that jogging on concrete is detrimental to hips and knees.

Policing:

What guarantee will we have that the Police will actually consider, much less be able to increase its patrol in the designated area? Surely, they are stretched too thin now as it is.

Site meeting:

I understand that given the number of questions raised it is proposed that a gathering/meeting will be held this Saturday at the Jackrabbit/Miller crossing. Has the time been designated? I'd like to alert our homeowners to the date/time of that meeting.

Comment 63

My neighborhood is extremely unhappy with the plans. And the sad thing is so many didn't hear about them until a neighbor started a petition. If you don't live on the canal you don't realize it's a quiet animal refuge. We don't want to lose that. We don't want New York style hustle and bustle going by our houses. We're neighborly, we talk to people passing by and get updates on where and when certain birds were seen. What a shame to lose something that magnificent in the middle of the city.

I just can't imagine lighting, inline skaters, skateboarders, etc not only scaring the animals away. But, it would also be an awful increase in noise as the canal butts up against my backyard along with all of us on the East side of the canal. My bedrooms and my husband's office along with our living room face the canal. Not only would the increase in noise bother the animals but the residents. You don't see these animals over at the Chaparral/Hayden park area due to the activity and noise. All of us live here for the quiet and serenity. We already have the occasional bicycle taxi from downtown blasting their stereo, I can only imagine what a nice paved way would do with the traffic from them. A nice paved street will most likely mean a constant stream of bike taxis at all hours of the night. People don't realize the canal acts as a speaker. Therefore, from inside my house I can hear entire conversations if people are loud. A few people is not a big deal. Mass transportation could be very loud. I can only imagine what the clacking of skaters, skateboarders will do. Also, young kids already hang out to smoke occasionally. If they see you they take off because it's a pass way. If benches and covering are put out, it would be a great place to hang, smoke, have a beer after dark. I do not want my backyard and bedroom lit up for all to see. It's there for my enjoyment. Lighting every few feet will mean no privacy.

I'm just curious what exactly is an environmental artist. This is what I find, The term environmental art is used in two different contexts: it can be used generally to refer to art dealing with ecological issues and/or the natural, such as the formal, the political, the historical, or the social context. If the artist in charge of the project is an environmental artist, you would think that she would not want to disturb the natural habitat along the canal. Nor would she want to put benches with shade outside my home. Thus causing a park environment. Also, this is the historic Hashknife Pony Express route. As Herb Drinkwater stated he wanted a community that we could all enjoy safely. It feels as though the city is not concerned about the main users of the canal. The residents who live on it 24/7 year after year. Do you know if the artist did a wild life impact study or even visited the area in person. There are so many things in the sketches that don't add up math wise, such as the actual widths of the canal banks. Also, the community on Lincoln is Arroyo Verde, (my home) not The Colony, as the slide shows. My husband talked with a AZ Game and Fish officer for our area. He stated that we have at least 200 coyotes living back here. It is a perfectly balanced piece of real dessert, right in the city.

More people will disrupt the natural balance. The coyotes will be in our neighborhoods, roof rats, snakes etc will populate if the birds of prey leave.

These owls are right where they want to put a lighted shaded area with a bench. I can't imagine them staying in this area if this occurs. They keep the rodent population down and are wonderful to watch and listen to every night. They are here already. I hope you enjoy the video. They are spectacular to see in person. I lived in Mesa on the edge of town for 18 years and never saw any of these birds. I wish everyone involved in the project would take a trip to our little piece of paradise right in the middle of Scottsdale.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Uv9aw0IUGs&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you for your time.

Comment 64

My name is XXXXX and I live in the Arroyo Verde Phase One community in a patio home which butts my back yard right on the Arizona Canal. My home sets on the east side of the canal right in line with Lincoln Drive. From my patio I look out to the west, over the canal; and can watch the sun set behind the Praying Monk. My wife and I have enjoyed this vantage point for over 5 years. The proposed Canal project has the potential of blocking this wonderful view for hundreds of families that live on the Canal.

The Arizona Canal between Chaparral and Indian Bend is just perfect the way it is. In all of my time living here I have never heard a neighbor or visitor suggest that the canal should be "improved" in any way.

This swath of land remains much unchanged since the Arizona Canal was first built in the 1880's. Dirt paths on both sides and unobstructed views. This area is an incredible island of wildlife that has survived the ever expanding urban sprawl that has plagued the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

As an experiment, I suggest anyone interested might spend an hour in the morning or afternoon just observing the wildlife that live and hunt in this peaceful place. Then walk away from the canal into the neighborhoods and business that line both sides. With every block traveled it will become obvious that the numbers and types of predatory wildlife encountered will drop. That is the way that the natural world works. Basically it can be said; "if you build it they will leave". Unfortunately the magnificent Harris Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Turkey Vultures and Kestrel will likely be scared away. Snake populations will die off. Coyotes

will likely disperse into our residential neighborhoods.

This imbalance can cause a drastic increase in disease carrying vermin. The canal attracts vermin and without the predators to keep them in check drastic overpopulation of these dangerous animals is imminent. Common Rats, Roof Rats, Mice, Pigeons and Scorpions are all inherently rapid breeders. Even an over population of cute little Cotton Tail Rabbits can become problematic.

There is no logical reason to change this last remaining section of historic Scottsdale land. The proposed project does not serve the people that actually live here. It will not serve those who covet the soft soil paths for walking, jogging, or running. It will not serve the beautiful birds of prey that happily maintain the balance of unwanted vermin. It will destroy one of the last natural, quiet locations in our fine city.

Looking at this Proposal from another Angle

There are already a series of existing paved Multi-Use paths running from Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard to Tempe Town Lake with easy access to Papago Park, Desert Botanical Garden and the Phoenix Zoo on the way. At my home this path is just 1000 feet from the Arizona Canal bank. I've traveled these paths many times and it is quite adequate for traffic between Chaparral and Indian Bend. Unlike the Canal, this existing path does not run in close proximity to private residences. I believe that the people of Scottsdale, as well as our visitors would benefit far more if the funds earmarked for the Canal project were put toward improving the existing path. Rest stops, lighting, drinking water for people and pets, as well as some added security.

With an existing path already in place, defacing our historic path is like building another parallel Loop 101 a thousand feet to the east of the one we already have. It just makes no sense.

I am completely against any changes to the current banks of the historic Arizona Canal between Chaparral and Indian Bend; it serves only as a way for the city to spend money allocated for such projects. Please, spend this money on the paved path that is already here. Do not destroy this little strip of serenity, just to add more "bling" to Scottsdale's glitz rating.

My passion is photography and the area on and around the Canal has been one of my favorite places to capture the incredible wildlife that lives here.

Attached are a few examples of our beautiful slice of Scottsdale ("The West's Most Western

Town"... remember?)





Comment 65

1. Who asked for it?

I would like to know the genesis of this project. Did any residents in the project area contact you and request a modification of the canal use? Was this generated at the government level? And why?

2. Who needs it?

Joggers and bikers already use the firm bank of the canal for exercise and recreational purposes. There are bike paths on both sides of Miller Road and Jackrabbit Road from which to access the canal bank or Chaparral Park.

3. Why spend money on it?

If the government has enough surplus funds to invest in a project that seems unneeded, perhaps a better idea would be to send tax refund checks to the residents.

4. Why pave more of Scottsdale?

All the surrounding streets are paved. The sidewalks are paved. The Greenbelt paths are paved. Chaparral Lake is paved. Haven't we paved enough of Old Town Scottsdale?

5. Why a connecting bridge?

From the canal bank behind our house, one can look in one direction and see Chaparral Road which connects to both banks of the canal and look in the other direction and see McDonald Drive which connects to both banks of the canal. Access appears quite adequate without a bridge to connect the east and west bank.

6. Why bring more people, noise or lighting to our backyard?

We live at the intersection of Miller Road and Jackrabbit Road and are likely to be the most adversely affected by the project, especially the connecting bridge. We are comfortable with the number of joggers and bikers accessing the canal bank beside our wall and moving on the bank behind our house. We beg you to come over and see for yourself how the bridge would affect the privacy, safety, quietness and enjoyment of our backyard. We have lived here 23 years. Please do not do this to us.

Comment 66

Although I live in Phoenix, I do most of my bicycling in Tempe and Scottsdale because of their bike friendly road ways and paths. I fully support the improvements to be able to take advantage of the canal path. Anything to make a safer area to Bike. Bicycle and pedestrian do not make the noise that other traffic does so I am not sure why the fear of having an improved bike way is there.

Once again I do urge the project will go ahead.

Comment 67

Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback regarding design improvements along the canal. I wanted to write in support of a recent letter regarding design improvements to the Arizona Canal by the City of Scottsdale. I agree that anything we can do as a City to ensure we rank as bicycle friendly and a walkable city helps us remain competitive with the tourism industry and remain a healthy community.

Thank you for allowing me to express my support,

Comment 68

I wish to voice my full support of Scottsdale's plans to continue improving the paths for pedestrians, runners and bicyclists. The enhancements have proven to benefit communities, enhance safety, attract tourists, and elevate values in adjacent neighborhoods.

I have out-of-state friends, both brief visitors and "snowbirds," who come to Scottsdale because of the hiking opportunities and bike-friendly environment. Some of them from Minneapolis, MN, well know for it's extensive pedestrian/bike infrastructure, still marvel at the local paths and routes available here in Scottsdale.

Paving the canal path southbound and adding a bridge at Jackrabbit has only positive benefits by adding a safer, more desirable choice toward Old Town and creates an alternative to mixing with traffic on Chaparral Road across the canal.

Unfortunately some local residents, with suspicious nature and negative to any improvements, are easily agitated into opposition by a few misguided and misinformed individuals who oppose any change; with reasons devoid of facts, and insist on promoting unsubstantiated hysteria - even when facing documented evidence to the contrary.

This project is good for safety, good the neighborhoods, good for tourism, and good for Scottsdale. Please make it happen; and continue expanding the paths further as rapidly as possible. Much is being done while much more is ahead to make Our City a first class, friendly, pedestrian/bicycling community.

Thank you.

Comment 69

I live in Tempe now, but lived in Scottsdale for years, and loved riding around in the city on my bike. You have an opportunity to pave the canal paths there, and I think it would be a great idea.... I love riding the Indian Bend Wash path... took it to ASU when I was attending classes there... Yea!

Tempe has the Western Canal path that goes from Tempe Mills Mall, east actually into Gilbert, with a bit of dirt crossings... Great, safe place to ride! Lots of bicycle commuters now that it has been open a few years.... less traffic on the roads, safer, and everyone is happy... In addition to joggers, the weekends see families; mom and dad with kids, ALL usually in helmets, out for a family ride together.... Great!

Cement is safer in the rain, too... the dirt side of the canal can get reeeeeeeely muddy and slippery, and dangerous to ride ANY type bike...

Scottsdale has always been a leader in the valley for planned recreation, commuting, and tremendous opportunities for its citizens. Now Scottsdale has an opportunity to keep that leadership going! Pave the canal paths!

Comment 70

This morning my husband and I biked in the above referenced area and have been impressed by all the bike paths that the Phoenix metropolitan area offers. We have been residents for over 25 years, but like to explore different areas and this morning came across many of the paved paths in the Papago area. Often we take advantage of other Scottsdale routes--Indian Bend Wash, and the many residential streets which we can safely navigate.

We live in Tempe along the Western Canal which has been paved and we lead a ride each Wed. from Stroud Park which is adjacent to that canal. In the winter we get many out-of-town visitors who marvel at our bike lanes on busy streets and all the paths that are paved. Since we ride year around which many areas of the country are not able to do, we attract many visitors who like the sociability and the healthy active life style.

We are good for the economy; our rides revolve around breakfast and you can check with Randy's on E. Chaparral because we bring them a lot of business. Another venue we visit frequently is the Adobe Restaurant at the Biltmore or the Original Pancake House on Camelback. We are a polite bunch of senior citizens for the most part who are also good tippers.

So, go ahead with that improvement. It will be good for Scottsdale.

Comment 71

I am a Scottsdale resident, and often ride along the canal in that area. I would really enjoy pavement, and a bridge across the canal that would make my bike riding safer by avoiding crossing Scottsdale Rd. at Chaparral. Paving would also keep dust from being kicked up, improving air quality.

Scottsdale has done a lot for biking, and during the winter I have noticed many snow birds and visitors enjoying the bike path. I know Scottsdale will benefit economically from these improvements. It is my greatest hope that Scottsdale will continue to be the leader in making a more livable city that the rest of the valley will look up to.

Comment 72

The City of Scottsdale wants your comments on improving the Multiuse Path along the Arizona Canal between Chaparral Road and Indian Bend Road. The project will include paving the path, adding path access points, putting a bike/ped bridge across the canal at Jackrabbit, landscaping the area and adding public art.

I own a home along this section of the canal, and am looking forward to the improvements. In fact, I independently suggested the bridge at Jackrabbit several years ago. I know Steve and Jan, Jane and Paul and other cyclists in the neighborhood also support the project. But other homeowners are all "NIMBY" about it, and have been vocal about their opposition and

fears. We need to balance the ledger, and I'm asking you to email your support for the project to the Project Manager, Anna Leyva, aleyva@scottsdaleaz.gov. Feel free to include any of the points below, and to add your own. You don't have to be a Scottsdale resident to comment on these improvements.

The canal bank is currently in use by cyclists and pedestrians, but is dirt and gravel, so it is not suitable for road bikes. Paving the path will provide a direct, traffic-free route into the heart of downtown Scottsdale at Camelback & Scottsdale Roads. The bridge across the canal at Jackrabbit will provide a safe, traffic-free crossing point, avoiding the dangerous traffic on the narrow Chaparral Road bridge. Since the bridge will connect to Jackrabbit on the west side of the canal, cyclists will be able to use the traffic signal at Jackrabbit to cross Scottsdale Rd in preference to the much more dangerous crossing at Chaparral. It should be a boon to cyclists going to and from Chaparral Park from the west.

For nearby residents, it will reduce blowing dust from the canal bank. It may enhance nearby home values: a home near Indianapolis' Monon trail is worth 11 percent more than a home a half mile away. If you own a nearby rental, these path improvements could increase your income: many winter visitors are attracted to Scottsdale because of the opportunities for cycling. Businesses near the downtown end of the path may see increased patronage from cyclists, as has been found to be the case in New York City and Memphis, TN.

Improvements to cycling infrastructure have an outsize payoff compared to their costs, so should be encouraged. Not only do they bring increased business, but they have health benefits as well. Studies in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Quebec have found annual economic benefits from cycling recreation and tourism bring in almost a billion dollars a year.

References:

- For a map and overview of the project, visit <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Construction/AZCanalPath>
- For details on the construction project, visit <https://eservices.scottsdaleaz.gov/eServices/CapitalProjects/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectId=2970>
- [DC Streets blog](#)
- [Advocacy Advance](#)
- [Utne Reader](#)
- [Adventure Cycling Blog](#)

Comment 73

I and my whole family ride bikes. I ride almost every day when it's not too hot. I have rode the dirt path but it's hard to get in from the north-west from Jackrabbit. Plus the dirt path is not great on a street bike so most of the time I ride on the streets with cars zoom very close. The path would also be a tourist path from the south going north. I see a time in the future that the canal will be a lot more people focus.

So I support a smooth walk and ride path with a bridge. Thank you for listing from just three bike riders.

Comment 74

I'm a cyclist (recumbent, road and mountain bike) who rides often in Scottsdale. I'm so excited about the new proposed Multiuse Path on the Canal and pedestrian bridge across Jackrabbit. It will greatly improve the pathways that are existing now. The canal, not being paved, is often forgotten by road bikes. It's a very safe way to travel and paving it is a big plus.

All the cyclists I know and have encountered in my years of riding have been friendly and respectful of others. I only wished I lived closer to it!

Comment 75

I support your project to improve the path along the Arizona Canal bank. The current canal bank path is dirt and gravel, so it is not suitable for road bikes. Paving the path will provide a direct, traffic-free route into the heart of downtown Scottsdale at Camelback & Scottsdale Roads. Businesses near the downtown end of the path may see increased patronage from cyclists.

The bridge across the canal at Jackrabbit will provide a safe, traffic-free crossing point, avoiding the dangerous traffic on the narrow Chaparral Road bridge, and will allow cyclists to cross Scottsdale Rd at Jackrabbit instead of the dangerous crossing at Chaparral.

For nearby residents, paving will reduce blowing dust from the canal bank. It may enhance nearby home values as has happened elsewhere. It could increase rental income as many winter visitors are attracted to Scottsdale because of the opportunities for cycling.

State and local governments have found that cycling infrastructure have an outsize payoff compared to their costs, so should be encouraged. Not only do they bring increased business, but they have health benefits as well. Studies in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Quebec have found annual economic benefits from cycling recreation and tourism bring in almost a billion dollars a year in each state. The 150-mile GAP rail trail in Pennsylvania cost only \$80 million over 40 years, yet annually attracts 800,000 bicycle tourists who spend \$50 million a year in the local economy. With a payback time of less than 2 years and a continuing boost to the local economy, Scottsdale should be looking for this kind of project!

Comment 76

Let me pass my appreciation on concerning the city of Scottsdale's plans to improve the Arizona Canal Pathway. I visit the area several times each year and enjoy the beautiful weather and bicycle riding conditions found in your city. Unfortunately, the gravel and unfinished pathway along the Arizona Canal presents an area to be avoided and bypassed. Please complete the improvements that will encourage us to visit your city and spend our money there while enjoying the improved facilities for cycling.

Thank you for your consideration.

Conditions for Improvement:

The canal bank is currently in use by cyclists and pedestrians, but is dirt and gravel, so it is not suitable for road bikes. Paving the path will provide a direct, traffic-free route into the heart of downtown Scottsdale at Camelback & Scottsdale Roads. The bridge across the canal at Jackrabbit will provide a safe, traffic-free crossing point, avoiding the dangerous traffic on the narrow Chaparral Road bridge. Since the bridge will connect to Jackrabbit on the west side of the canal, cyclists will be able to use the traffic signal at Jackrabbit to cross Scottsdale Rd in

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Improvements to cycling infrastructure have an outsize payoff compared to their costs, so should be encouraged. Not only do they bring increased business, but they have health benefits as well. Studies in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Quebec have found annual economic benefits from cycling recreation and tourism bring in almost a billion dollars a year.

Comment 77

I am writing you to let you know I support all suggested improvements to the multiuse path on the Arizona Canal, between Chaparral and Indian Bend Rd., (and beyond).

I have been cycling for 5 ½ years. I am 59 years old. I am a member of Phoenix Metro Bicycle Club. The canal system is one of my favorite rides because of its safety, and distance from traffic. I don't enjoy riding on hard packed gravel as much as a nice, smooth, flat, paved bike path. The dirt and dust created by riding on unpaved canals irritates my lungs, and dust/dirt debris settles in my bike gears, sticking to the oil on my chain.

My PMBC chapter cycling groups meet in or close to Chaparral Park. This location is easy access for us to enter the canal path. The adult groups I ride with consist of upright, trikes, and recumbent bicycles. The many trikes and recumbent bikes in my group have trouble getting up onto the canal, to start a ride. They have to be carried up, and many of these are heavy.

My boyfriend and I also enjoy a walk on the canal. We often see other cyclists with hybrid, (wider), tires on their bikes, and also people walking and running on this canal.

Please allocate money to improve and add to our continued enjoyment of these safer and more fun canal path systems. Please make the improvements a.s.a.p.